



Weekly WIC Newsletter

August 19, 2019

Contracts Communication

Amendments and FY 20 contracts should have been received, or will be shortly, at the local level. We are sending them electronically now for signatures, and the recipient will be the authorized contract signor. If you are looking for a contract and cannot locate it, first contact your contract signor as designated in your master contract. If that person has left, or has not received it, please contact Susan Wensel (susan.wensel@mt.gov) or (406) 444-2720 at the State to track/resend as needed.

Perinatal Mental Health Conference

This is just a reminder, that if you wish to attend the perinatal mental health conference, November 7 & 8th we have a code for FREE WIC registration. Kate will email out the code for anyone interested (up to 20). There will be a fantastic key note on “Fed is best vs. Breast is Best” that we are sponsoring, as well as multiple sessions relevant to the work you do in WIC. It is important that we build our capacity to recognize signs of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs) and effectively learn to screen and refer women out who appear to be struggling. Attending these trainings is a great way to do this.

New WIC Oriented Public Charge Resources Available

Earlier this week, acting director of the US Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) Ken Cuccinelli announced the final rule on public charge. The final rule expands an immigration law provision that penalizes legal immigrants from accessing certain public benefit programs. Under the final rule, an individual's use of SNAP, Medicaid, or housing subsidies would weigh against their petition for legal status. These changes will not go into effect until **October 15**.

While **WIC is not included in the final rule**, the change to immigration policy will penalize families for lawfully accepting Medicaid assistance or SNAP benefits. Many WIC families will lose access to healthcare services or nutrition support as a result of this policy change, leaving millions of individuals – including many US-citizen children – at risk for negative health and nutrition outcomes.

To assist clinics with counseling concerned participants, please access updated NWA resources [here](#). The updated resources include NWA's FAQ document on public charge, with translations in Spanish and Chinese. You can also view NWA's press release about the final rule [here](#).

Provide Input on Breastfeeding Mothers in the Workplace

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) wants to hear from you in the [Supporting Nursing Mothers in the Workplace](#) online dialogue. Join other nursing mother advocates to share ideas on how DOL can inform nursing mothers of their rights in the workplace under Section 7(r) of the Fair Labor Standards Act – Break Time for Nursing Mothers Provision (the "Nursing Mothers Provision"). How can DOL assist nursing mothers to work with their employers to ensure they are aware of the provisions and that they have access to lactation breaks?

Register today at <https://SAW-RTW.IdeaScale.com/> to view and comment on other participants' ideas, such as [this idea](#) emphasizing the importance of privacy for nursing mothers in designated lactation spaces. The [Supporting Nursing Mothers in the Workplace](#) online dialogue is only open for two more weeks and closes August 23. Join us today to share your perspective and help shape future DOL efforts. We look forward to collaborating with you!

Reports Available

[Benefits Issued & Redeemed July 2019](#)

[Participation Report July 2019](#)

Local Agency Spotlight – Congratulations Awardees

Awards and recognitions were announced at the Great Beginnings Great Families Conference during the WIC half-day to several local WIC agencies for achievements identified by the State Office. Verbal recognition was announced in the following areas of excellence: Breastfeeding, Innovative Education Activities, Outreach, Farmer's Market, and Coordination of Services. The following awards were given:

- Achievement in Monitoring: Beaverhead WIC Program, Valley WIC Program, and Sheridan WIC Program
- Increased Participation: Beaverhead WIC Program and Park WIC Program
- Outstanding Local Agency: Flathead WIC Program

Congratulations to the awardees, and to those that received recognitions! This is the first year that the State Office has given awards and we hope to continue in future years. If you have specific questions about these awards, please contact Jill Griffin at 406-444-0909.

Weekly Risk Code Highlight

Risk Code 348, Central Nervous System Disorders are conditions that affect energy requirements, ability to feed self, or alter nutritional status metabolically, mechanically, or both. These include epilepsy, cerebral palsy, neural tube defects, Parkinson's Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis.

What WIC Can Do

Nutrition intervention should focus on, to the extent possible, the medical treatment and/or medical/nutrition therapy a participant may be receiving.

- Investigate potential drug-nutrient interactions
- Inquire about the participant's understanding of a prescribed diet
- Encourage the participant to keep medical appointments
- Tailor the food package to accommodate the medical condition
- Refer the participant to other health and social services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Help us keep the distribution list updated – send e-mail address changes, additions and deletions to [Kevin](#) at the WIC State Office at (406) 444-4746.

